

Investigation 1: Name that Bear

Measuring Up Chart

Directions:

Use the information on the Bear Biology Handout on the opposite side to fill in the chart.

If you do not know your exact weights, please approximate.

a 1-yr. old bear Female: age Average number of cubs per sow Length of time cub stays with mother Range of life span	Brown Bear	Black Bear	You	
Female bear Female: Female: Female: Your weight Male: Female: Your weight Female: Female: Your weight at birth Average birth weight of cub Average weight of a 1-yr. old bear Female: Female: Your weight at 1 year of age Female: Female: Number of brothers and sisters you have Length of time cub stays with mother Range of life span Average person's life span	Male:	Male:	Your height	
Male: Female: Your weight at birth Average weight of cub Average weight of a 1-yr. old bear Average number of cubs per sow Length of time cub stays with mother Range of life span Female: Female: Your weight at 1 year of age Number of brothers and sisters you have Number of years you will stay at home with your parents Average person's life span	Female:	Female:		
Female: Female: Your weight at birth Average weight of a 1-yr. old bear Female: Female: Female:	Male:	Male:	Your weight	
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a 1-yr. old bear Female: age Average number of cubs per sow Length of time cub stays with mother Range of life span Range of life span			Your weight at birth	
Average number of cubs per sow Length of time cub stays with mother Range of life span Female:	Male:	Male:	Your weight at 1 year of	
of cubs per sow Length of time cub stays with mother Range of life span sisters you have Number of years you will stay at home with your parents Average person's life span	Female:	Female:		
Length of time cub stays with mother Range of life span Average person's life span				
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mother parents Range of life span Average person's life span			• • •	
Range of life span Average person's life span				
			parents	
What observations can you make about brown bear, black bear and human development?			span	
	ns can you make ab	out brown bear, black	bear and human development?	
		Male: Female: Male: Female: Male: Female:	Male:	Male: Male: Your height Female: Male: Your weight Female: Your weight at birth Male: Your weight at 1 year of age Female: Number of brothers and sisters you have Number of years you will stay at home with your parents Average person's life span



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Bear Biology Handout

Black bears (*Ursus americanus*) and brown bears (*Ursus arctos*) are omnivores, which means they eat both plants and animals. In early spring, they tend to eat plants, grasses and occasionally **carrion**. During the summer months, bears feed on a variety of foods, including: berries, grasses, **intertidal** organisms, and some fish. In the fall season, bears must add more fat to their diets in order to survive the winter months in their dens. During this time, they rely heavily on berries, seeds, and fish.

The sow has her cubs in the den where she spends the winter months. On average, a brown or black bear will give birth to two cubs every other year. At birth a young black bear cub will weigh about eight ounces. A brown bear cub may weigh up to one and a half pounds. Bear cubs stay in the den with their mothers until spring.

Like humans, bear cubs rely solely on their mother's milk for the first few months of life. Cubs nurse while in the den and only for a short time after leaving the den in early spring. By the time the berries ripen and grasses are plentiful, the cubs have learned to **forage** on their own. Soon they hunt and gather food for themselves without the help of their mother. At about eighteen months to two years of age, cubs leave their mother and go out searching for their own home range. Black and brown bears are not picky about their diet and will eat whatever they can find.

Baby bears eat and grow rapidly. When black bears reach one year of age, the female cub can weigh anywhere between 30 to 50 pounds, the male cub can weigh up to 70 pounds. Brown bears are considerably larger with year-old female cubs weighing about 100 pounds and males weighing up to 200 pounds. An adult male black bear can weigh up to 600 pounds, females up to 350 pounds. Although brown bears resemble black bears, they are generally larger than black bears. On average, an adult female brown bear weighs between 300 to 800 pounds, an adult male between 400 to 1200 pounds. Both species are sizable when standing. A male black bear standing upright can reach a height of 7 feet, a brown bear 9 feet. Female black bears can stand between 5 and 7 feet tall. Female brown bears average 7 feet tall.

The lifespan of a bear is dependent upon the availability of suitable habitat. On average, both bear species live from twenty to twenty-five years in the wild and longer in captivity.

Sources: http://www.nps.gov/glba/naturescience/bears-at-glacier-bay.htm, www.bear.org, http://www.bearcountryusa.com/animals/animal info.php?id=12